MFA Acting YEAR 3 | REPERTORY

Blade to the Heat
Written by Oliver Mayer
Directed by Edgar Landa

Seize the King
Written by Will Power
Directed by Michele Shay

THE COMPANY (in alphabetical order)

Hideyoshi Akai  Oscar Enrique Gonzalez Torres  Stephen Humes
Cameron Murphy  Kumar Rohit  Nicole Royster  John Stephens

February 16–27, 2022 | Scene Dock Theatre

REPERTORY PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Blade to the Heat
Thursday, February 17 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 19 at 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 20 at 2:30 p.m.
Friday, February 25 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 26 at 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 27 at 2:30 p.m.

Seize the King
Wednesday, February 16 at 7:30 p.m.
Friday, February 18 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 19 at 2:30 p.m.
Wednesday, February 23 at 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, February 24 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 26 at 2:30 p.m.
Written by Oliver Mayer
Directed by Edgar Landa

CAST OF CHARACTERS (in order of appearance)

Stephen Humes  
Garnet

John Stephens  
Jack

Oscar Enrique  
Gonzalez Torres  
Alacran

Cameron Murphy  
Pedro Quinn

Jeremiah O’Brian  
Referee/Reporter

Kumar Rohit  
Mantequilla

Nicole Royster  
Sarita

Hideyoshi Akai  
Vinal


TIME 1959  PLACE Los Angeles

There will be no intermission.

WARNING Please be advised that this production contains strobe lights, flashbulbs, violence, mature language and themes.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Projection Design Nicolas Shawn Hussong | Fight Choreography Edgar Landa | Intimacy Direction Carly D. Weckstein
Assistant Stage Manager Sarah Costigan | Assistant Scenic Design Monica Kosmos | Assistant Lighting Design Zoe McCracken
Assistant Costume Design Kali Bissanti | Assistant Sound Design Renata Finamore | Assistant Technical Director Lizzy Lourenco

Written by Will Power
Directed by Michele Shay

SEIZE THE KING

CAST OF CHARACTERS (in order of appearance)

Hideyoshi Akai
Richard/Chorus

John Stephens
Lord Hastings/
Rebel Soldier Two/Chorus

Nicole Royster
Queen Woodville/Master of the
Royal Wardrobe/Chorus

Cameron Murphy
Edward V/French Attendant/
Rebel Soldier Three/Chorus

Oscar Enrique
Gonzalez Torres
Lord Buckingham/
Gardener Two/Chorus

Kumar Rohit
Lady Anne/Edward IV/
Chorus

Stephen Humes
Gardener One/ Gregor the Tailor/
Reverend Shaw/Royal Servant/
Soldier One/ Rebel Soldier/Chorus

Additional role played by Megan Tomei.

TIME Past and Present.
PLACE England and the world.

There will be one 10-minute intermission.

WARNING Please be advised that this production features strobe lights and
physical violence, including swordplay and strangulation, and acts of coercion.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Projection Design Nicolas Shawn Hussong | Choreography Lisa Ruffin | Fight Choreography Edgar Landa
Dance Captain Stephen Humes | Fight Captain Stephen Humes | Assistant Stage Manager Lexey Glouberman
Assistant Scenic Design Kate Schaaf | Assistant Lighting Design Zoe McCracken | Assistant Sound Design Amelia Anello
Assistant Costume Design Kealey Busch | Assistant Technical Director Lizzy Lourenco | Vocal & Speech Coach Lauren Murphy Yeoman
Crew Madeline Bennett, Devin Craig, Arantxa Guerrero, Deniz Himmetoglu, Addie Lillard, Beryl Liu,
Josephine Mo, Lewis Oliveras, Megan Tomei, Aria Upton, Aristaia Yanakakis–Carroll

Produced by special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials supplied by WILLIAM MORRIS ENDEAVOR ENTERTAINMENT, LLC.
The World Premiere of SEIZE THE KING – Produced in 2018 by La Jolla Playhouse, La Jolla, California.
Christopher Ashley, Artistic Director & Michael S. Rosenberg, Managing Director.
for **Blade to the Heat**

**DIRECTOR'S BIO**
Edgar Landa is an adjunct faculty member and the resident fight director for the School of Dramatic Arts. He directs and creates fights & violence for theatres large and small in Los Angeles and beyond. He has also been a guest director at USC, Long Beach State University and Loyola Marymount University. Edgar is an alumnus of the Directors Lab West and the Lincoln Center Theatre Directors Lab. Recent directing credits include *Much Ado About Nothing* (Off Square Theatre) and *The Comedy of Errors* (USC). Edgar is a proud member of Actors Equity Association and the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society. www.edgarlanda.com

**SPECIAL THANKS**
Tegan Ashton Cohan; USC Trojan Boxing Club; Pat Towne for the VO; Stephen Humes for taking the lead on song curation; Gabby Weltman for stepping into the ring when necessary; Kai Zhang and Alcides Costa for managing the corner duties; David Warshofsky for the extra set of eyes from the stands; and Oliver Mayer for the books, the pugilism schooling, the wisdom, the words he wrote and the friendship.

for **Seize the King**

**DIRECTOR'S NOTE**
In *Seize the King*, playwright Will Power explores the spectrum of dark and light in man, asking the question, “Why do the archetypes of what we call the worst in human nature keep returning age after age?” In this story of Richard the Third, we look at complex issues of the past through a modern lens: the greed for power, politics, family dysfunctionality, and hopefully understand more about who we are.

**DIRECTOR'S BIO**
Michele Shay has directed seven plays from the August Wilson canon, including *Gem of the Ocean*, *Fences*, *Seven Guitars*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *King Hedley II*, *Two Trains Running* (Ovation Nomination), *In the Green Space*, and *AW Cycle* recordings produced by Dr. Indira Etwaroo for New York Public Radio. Shay directed readings of *King Hedley II* with Stephen McKinley Henderson and Leslie Uggams, and *Two Trains Running* featuring Anthony Chisolm, Russell Hornsby and Tracie Thoms. Most recently, she directed the world premiere of *Reparations* by James Sheldon (2020 Audelco Award) and *The Old Settler* by John Henry Redwood with Pauletta Washington at the Billie Holiday Theater in Brooklyn. Other productions include *Blues for an Alabama Sky* (Lorraine Hansberry), *Bullrush* by Eisa Davis, *Wedding Band* by Alice Childress, *Blue Stockings* by Jessica Swale, *Gloria* by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, and *da kink in my hair* by Trey Anthony. She is the 2019 recipient of National Black Theater Festival’s Lloyd Richards award for her directing career.

**SPECIAL THANKS**
Thank you to playwright Will Power for visiting the cast and speaking with us about *Seize the King* and his cousin Lucio Bianchi for contributing dramaturgical historical research for the play. Thank you also to internationally renowned gender artist Lisa Wolpe, Sabina Zuniga Varela, choreographer Lisa Ruffin, fight choreographer Edgar Landa, David Warshofsky, Natsuko Ohama for their contributions to the production. Gratitude to the design team, production teams, stage management and MFA students Devin Craig and Megan Tomei for all their work to bring the production to life.